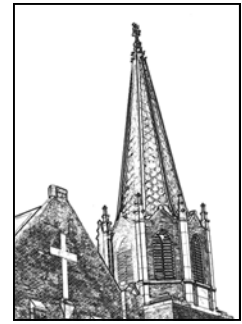


The Spire



Volume 8 Number 1 July, 2009



**Epworth LeSourd
United Methodist Church**

Rev. Wes Stanton

**710 South Anderson Street
Tacoma, WA 98405-2749
(253) 627-0700**

**We boldly
transform lives
and our
community
through
service,
building
relationships
and sharing
Christ's love.**

Big Days at ELUMC And on Sixth Avenue!

The mid-summer dates of July 11th and 12th are great opportunities for Epworth LeSourd to reach out to the community. We hope you will plan to take part in every way that you can.

Basketball Tournament

The weekend starts with a "3 on 3" basketball tournament starting Saturday morning at 10 a.m. on our Kiki Memorial Court. Sixteen teams, eight of youth under 17 years, either gender, and eight of those over 17 are anticipated to compete in the double elimination tournament. Teams are being recruited from the neighborhood, from businesses and from other churches. Final championship games will start right after church on Sunday and finish about 3:00 p.m.

Dana Peterson is director of the event with assistance of a small committee. Ron Davis is recruiting scorekeepers and game monitors.

ELUMC Booth at "Art on the Ave"

Sunday is a big *multiple event day*. It starts early when a crew will be over at our booth at the big "Art on the Ave" sum-

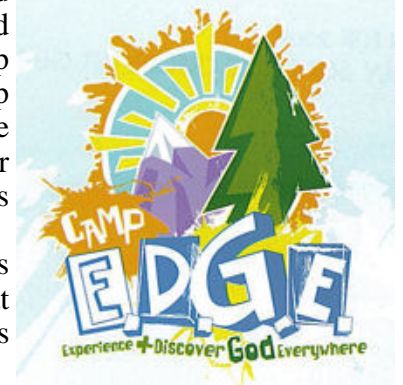
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Vacation Bible School & Worship on the Lawn

Save the first week in August for these two annual events.

Vacation Bible School will be Monday through Friday, August 3 through 7, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 each day. Director Leona Weltzer says there will be another fun and exciting time for youngsters and adult helpers at VBS "Camp E.D.G.E." She is ready to sign up the needed adults to help make the week another success – let her know you are willing to take this step in carrying forth our mission.

Leona and her helpers always prepare props and settings that transport the children and adults



(Continued on page 2)



Sharing Christ's Love

Big Days at ELUMC *continued*

mer festival getting set up for the day. Setup will start between 9 and 10 a.m. We will need volunteers to help get set up and three- or four-person teams to man the booth in two- to three-hour shifts from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the shut-down time. Contact Stacey Moore, 278-4337, or Dave Parker, 761-1620, to volunteer.



We expect to have a great booth at "Art on the Ave" that will attract kids, parents and others! A hilarious fun contest (Milking a cow, believe it or not!) will appeal to the kids, their parents and onlookers. You will have to come to see this happening. Our members in the booth will have the opportunity to tell ELUMC's story to visitors.

Our Cub Scout Pack 3 will also have a booth next to Epworth LeSourd's. Both are expected to be located on The Ave between Anderson and Oakes Streets

After the Basketball at ELUMC

In the meantime, ELUMC will have its regular worship service at 11 a.m., followed immediately by the championship finals of the 3 on 3 basketball tournament.

Music and drama on the lawn will follow the basketball finals until 6 p.m.. The Christian rappers and singers, mostly from the Kent Valley area will be performing. Some of them performed here in April. Performers will include Genuine Life, Josh Sands, Ryan Pugh, Elliott and others. Following their performances visitors will see a short drama performed by church members and closing will be several new numbers by our Celebration Team.

We hope to attract visitors walking to and from the "Art on the Ave" festival.



Christian Artist Marquis

Vacation Bible School & Worship on the Lawn *continued*

realistically into the Bible scenes on which the week is based. Story telling with Tracy Dillon and music and dance with Dana Peterson are two of the highlights everyone enjoys. Other helpers round out the program.



Enroll your kids, neighbor kids, relatives' kids!

Worship on the Lawn Sunday, August 9

This fun annual day of worship, fellowship and food is set for Sunday, August 9 at 11:00 a.m. It follows the end of Vacation Bible School so the children, music and dance from the VBS program can be a part of the service. This is a great day to let our neighbors know we're not just behind the walls but real people. Invite all you can!

The outdoor barbecue and potluck picnic lunch will follow the service. For the barbecue, hot dogs and hamburgers will be furnished as well as drinks.

"Next Step" Plans Under Way

On Tuesday, June 30, 10 ELUMC members met under the Chairmanship of Stacey Moore, to formulate plans for the "Next Step" in fulfilling our mission. Included in the discussion was the question of "where do we go from here?" with the successful Friday night barbecues. Additional discussions centered on the demographics of our neighborhood; who lives here, how do we interest them in church and how do we fulfill all three elements of the mission. Conclusions and action remain to be determined.

Attending were Pastor Wes, Kathy Bogue, Dave Pflueger, Julia Martin, Tracy Dillon, Leona Weltzer, Dana Peterson, Stacey Moore, Jacque Riley, Dave and Donna Parker.

Serving and Building Relationships

Annual Conference Closing Worship

A number of Epworth members attended the final service of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference at the University of Puget Sound Field House Sunday, June 20.

The theme of the conference and service was "Everybody Fed". Bishop Grant Hagiya delivered an inspirational sermon in which he called for everybody to be fed, not only with food but spiritually, intellectually and emotionally. He pointed out how the Pacific Northwest Conference (Washington and Northern Idaho) has declined over 20% in membership since 1983 and is continuing to do so. He called for, and challenged, the churches, to gain at least ten new members every year for the next four years.

A highlight of the service was several songs by PNWC's newest church - the First Tongan Church of Seattle, just organized in April. Their large choir of 40 or more men and women delivered beautiful, clear harmony, a cappella.

Another highlight was the opportunity to greet two of our previous pastors: Terry Hall and Dennie Sherman who have been appointed to Cheney WA.; Joanne Coleman Campbell and her husband John. Joanne has been appointed to First Church, Olympia, and John to Yelm UMC. Their new home is in Lacey WA.

The final act of the service was the reading of the appointments of all pastors in the Conference to their returning or new appointments. Pastor Wes was re-appointed to ELUMC and also to the Tacoma Connecting Mission. All the pastors in the Tacoma Connecting Mission received that second part of their appointment.

Coming Events for United Methodist Women

The Cooperative School of Christian Mission will be held July 24-27 in Ellensburg WA. As part of the program, attendees will study "The Beauty and Courage of Sudan" with Rev. Paul Jeffery, noted missionary and photographer. For more information, contact Donna Parker, 761-1620.

The Tacoma District UMW Annual meeting will be at First UMC Saturday, September 19 and will be hosted by the First UMC/ELUMC UMW.

The Need is Great. Will this Work?

As noted in the story about Conference Sunday, Bishop Hagiya has documented the steady loss of members and attendance in the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church. He has in turn called for each church to receive at least 10 new members each year.

Realizing that without a concerted effort through a focused strategy, we will remain in decline and be unable to realize the General Conference's vision for our churches, "*to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,*" the Conference has developed a plan to implement new growth in existing churches and new church starts where needed. The action portion of the plan starts with the creation of District Planning and Strategy Teams (DPAS). In the Tacoma District, the plan will be headed by District Superintendent Sharon Moe. Five to ten lay and clergy persons from the District will be on her committee.

There have been other plans developed in past years with similar long term goals that have not achieved significant results. It is believed that the passion of the Bishop, the urgency of the need and locally focused decision making will make a difference.

In the final analysis, however, great plans remain only great plans unless they are supported by creative, enthusiastic, thoughtful members of the local church creating and executing growth and mission plans *appropriate to their local community*. ELUMC has a great core membership, defined by our mission statement, already successfully working in this direction. Much opportunity remains for fulfillment.

"Cultivating Christian Community" July 18

Leona Weltzer announces a class at ELUMC on Saturday, July 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on "Cultivating Christian Community". Anyone who is or wants to be in a position of church leadership should attend. There will be a charge of \$10 to cover the cost of lunch, breaks and other expenses.



"A Feast in Paradise"

Sisters and brothers!

It's a cool and breezy Tuesday. The chimes just struck 4:30. I'm sitting on the church's porch, after feeling cooped-up too long in the office.

On the steps are four twelve- and thirteen-year-olds. It's a far cry from the dozen-plus kids who were hanging out here yesterday afternoon, and the nearly-as-many who have passed the time on our 8th Street ramp and stairwell, well into the evening most nights since the end of school.

At Annual Conference last Friday, Nico Romeijn-Stout addressed five or six hundred United Methodists. He challenged us to set a date in this week's calendar to "Be Bold for Jesus Christ." So I did.

Saturday night was a busy one, here around the church. When I arrived Sunday morning to put Closed for Conference signs on the doors, and to pick up my robe for the processional at the Conference worship service, I saw the damage to gardens, shrubbery, and the magnolia tree, and unusual amounts of litter. The already-battered garbage can was missing from its chain. That morning I received an email from a neighbor, and a phone call from another neighbor, telling of the big group of kids on our ramp til well past 11, loud, and rude when asked to quiet down.

Sunday night, and Monday, more of the same.

And now, today, my calendar says, "**Be Bold for Jesus Christ.**" It's clear to me that this boldness is about becoming and remaining engaged with the kids on the steps. One day isn't enough.

My goal with them isn't about the protection of our annuals or irises, or even the tree. One goal is peaceful nights' sleep for the neighbors, and their sense that the neighborhood is a place of beauty and joy. My goal is that the kids learn healthier ways of participating in community; they're at a tough place in their lives. My primary goal, though, is that we of the church, through our words and our actions, persistently convey to them that they are all beloved children of God, infinitely worthy, and created for a life that's beautiful and full.

I ask your persistent prayers for the youth of the neighborhood, and for our budding relationships with them. I ask your persistent prayers for me, and for all who want to share Christ's love with them.

At Annual Conference, District Superintendent Ron Hines celebrated some of the ways that United Methodists in the northwest are rethinking what it means to be church, and are taking to heart Jesus' mission to go out into the world to spread the love of God. *He named you, Epworth LeSourd*. Ron said, "At Epworth LeSourd, all summer long, the Friday Night Barbecue draws seventy to ninety youth of the neighborhood." Well, he said something like that. I got caught on the "seventy to ninety," numbers around twice our average actual Friday night attendance! But I see in the activity of Friday evenings the hand of God at work. I don't think he got his numbers wrong, though; I just think Ron was speaking prophetically! Are we ready?

Bishop Grant Hagiya's Sunday sermon, and the theme of the whole Annual Conference session, was "**Everybody Fed.**" Everybody. Fed. Physically, spiritually, emotionally, intellectually. Everybody.

In light of the challenges of a changing culture, a decline in church participation, and the insistent complaint that we're hampered by limitations of one sort and another, Bishop Grant said, we let ourselves get bogged down in whining about what we can't do, rather than doing what we can. Again and again, Epworth LeSourd, I felt just a little bit smug: you've already learned that lesson. You're already at work going out to feed the people physically, and spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually. Yet I believe we too can do more.

How? That will emerge.

I can hardly wait.

Love,

Wes

UPDATE: Thursday afternoon, a lovely, still, warm day, I found five or six of the kids sitting & lying on the lawn. I sat with them for a while. The conversation ranged all over: violence on the streets, homelessness, treating people with respect and good cheer. ("You *know* him?" they asked me, incredulous, when one homeless neighbor was mentioned. "Yeah, I talk with him when I see him.") "I heard that a lot of homeless people were in the war," one said. "Treat people the way you'd like to be treated," another said. "That's in the Bible," I said. "Keep your friends close, and your enemies closer," another offered. "That's *not* in the Bible," I said.

Friday evening, probably still not "seventy to ninety" people at the cookout – but there were a LOT. All ages, from church, neighborhood, and beyond. It wasn't a lot of food ... but it was a feast in paradise.

Love,

Pacific Northwest Annual Conference Report—June 2009

If there was a single message from Annual Conference it is that this church of ours -- is ours to lose. Our Bishop laid the foundation for a two fold plan to: 1) revitalize existing congregations and 2) start new faith communities. Both plans require us to focus our congregations outward into our local context, or mission field, and to concentrate on the task of making new disciples for Jesus Christ. Our charge is as individuals and as the complete body of the church. Bishop Hagiya vowed to provide training for its laity and pastoral staffs to develop leadership in our churches.

Bishop Tuell spoke of “dis-membering” the church, our families, our communities, our societies and that through Christ we can “re-member” our church , our families, and our societies.

We were introduced to Bishop Hagiya’s 6 district Planning and Strategy Team concept designed to help build and rebuild our congregations. We learned that the Methodist Church needs to end its 25 year decline and that these teams will be the key connection for the overall vision.

We addressed constitutional amendments to support the inclusiveness of the Church -- acknowledging all persons are of sacred worth of which we are in ministry to and with all and granting all a place in the work of our Church. We changed descriptive language to reflect the global make up of our church membership and language to eliminate past distinctions of separation from our church.

The legislative Committee of Church and Society, Domestic, gave concurrence on resolutions for our Church to support a centennial celebration for Tacoma Community House, to take action to raise environmental awareness of global warming, elimination of sentencing disparities through drug sentencing reform , support for Idaho Human Rights Act Antidiscrimination act prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, supported a petition concerning universal health care and challenging members to made individual commitments to live healthier lives, making the Kairos Prison Ministry an active part of local church ministry, and to welcome the Tribal Canoe Journey 2009 to the Indianola Camp and Retreat Center.

The Church and Society International legislative committee gave concurrence to take actions to urge world leaders to hold a global/world peace conference, and called for churches, as set forth in the Book of Resolutions 2008, to advocate for legislation to uphold the civil and human rights of all migrants in the United States, to denounce and oppose reactions against our migrant community, to call on our government to cease arrests and detainment or deportation of undocumented immigrants solely on the basis of this status until immigration reform is passed, and to advocate for immigration law reform. The committee also gave concurrence to initiate a letter denouncing the torture of persons for any purpose as a violation of Christian teachings.

The Conference and Church Order committee gave concurrence to approve an organizational merger bringing the Oregon-Idaho and the Northwest United Methodist Foundations together, to establish a long term plan for equalization of pay to be the norm in our Conference and to appoint an Annual Conference Disaster Response Coordinator to assist UMCOR by the formation of an Annual Conference Disaster Response Committee.

The Discipleship Legislative Committee gave concurrence for our PNW Annual Conference to be encouraged to join the “Caring Communities Program” to better understand mental illness and to foster ministry to and with persons with mental illness and their families.


The Global Ministries Legislative Committee supported the setting aside of a Sunday to be declared Volunteers in Mission Awareness Day and to be in partnership in Ministry with the South Congo.

And, lastly the Report of the Legislative Committee on Property and Finance sadly gave concurrence for the closure of the Pasco and Grandview United Methodist Churches in the Seven Rivers District and our own Asbury United Methodist Church in the Tacoma District.

This report is a summary of the Annual Conference formal activities and presentations. Attendees were also treated to an amazing missions fair, opportunities for development through small ministry briefings and reports, spiritual enrichment through special services and sermons, and fellowship and sharing of our local church outreach and ministry efforts with all the districts of our PNW Annual Conference.

Submitted by Victoria Walters

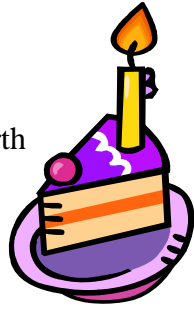
Epworth LeSourd United Methodist Church July 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Art on the Ave Booth Planning 6 p.m.	2	3 Pastor's Day Off Friday Burger Feed 5:30-6:30	4 
5 8:00 am Early Eucharist 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:15 Refreshments 2:00 p.m. Neighborhood Walk	6	7 10 a.m. Tuesday Group 12:30 p.m. Pastoral Care Team	8 6:30 p.m. Worship Planning Team	9	10 Pastor's Day Off Friday Burger Feed 5:30-6:30	11 9:30 a.m. Board of Trustees Basketball Tournament 10-3
12 Art on the Ave. Basketball and outside performances 8:00 am Early Eucharist 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:15 Refreshments	13 Pastor's Day Off	14 10 a.m. Tuesday Group 7:00 pm Finance Com. 7:30 pm Church Council	15 6:30 p.m. Christian Formation and Education Committee	16	17 Friday Burger Feed 5:30-6:30	18 9-3 Cultivating Christian Community
19 8:00 am Early Eucharist 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:15 Refreshments Connecting Mission Parish Council, Bethany UMC	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 10 a.m. Tuesday Group 6:00 p.m. Staff Parish Relations Committee	22	23	24 Friday Burger Feed 5:30-6:30	25
26 8:00 am Early Eucharist 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:15 Refreshments	27	28 10 a.m. Tuesday Group	29	30	31 Friday Burger Feed 5:30-6:30	

Members and Friends Birthdays and Anniversaries

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Vivian Roberts
- 9 Adrienne Moore
- 12 Elizabeth Burnworth
- 13 Emery Roberts
Lois Tuell
- 16 Matthew Ryan
- 22 Pastor Terry Hall
- 25 Dale Seiber
- 26 Mark Ryan
Jim Upton
Kathy Bogue
- 29 Dean Davis
- 30 Dolores Heffelfinger
Bonnie Smith
- 31 Avery Winslow



People News

Our sympathy to **Kathy Bogue** and her family on the passing of her cousin, Jonathon Hayes, June 2, at age 59 from ALS (Lou Gehrigs Disease). Services were held Saturday, June 27, in Olympia. Services were conducted by Pastor Wes.

Rick Ogren, son of **Linda and Norman Ogren** graduated from Puyallup High School. He will attend Highline Community College with an emphasis on accounting and music.

Ruth Rowe was 90 years old June 28. Her family is having a big celebration for her in July.

Mary Jane Devish and her husband **Dennis** enjoyed a motor trip to South Dakota in late June. Their destination was Tabor SD (a town of 417) where a famous Czechoslovakian Fair is held. Dennie's heritage is Czechoslovakian. There is also a street in Tabor named after an early relative of Dennie. While in South Dakota, they visited DeSmet SD and the site of the homestead for the "Little House" books by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Helen Engle hosted a large potluck "Summer Solstice" gathering of about 300 in her gardens on June 26. Environmental concerns and displays were the featured attractions.

Three Prestigious Awards To Jake Stortini

Typifying the highest level of Young America, Carol and Joe Stortini's grandson was a winner of three competitive awards this spring. They are:

Tacoma "City of Destiny" Award. Awarded to his team of 5 students by the City of Tacoma for their work in "Environmental Sustainability".

"Imagine Tomorrow" Competition. Competitive event sponsored by and held at Washington State University. Jake's team won first prize over 93 other teams from around the state. The award was \$30,000, divided among the team members and the Tacoma School of the Arts. To win this award, the team had created an educational program for middle school students on taking care of the environment. They then spent 24 weeks teaching the program and mentoring students at Mason Middle School. Jake says their program will likely be implemented into education by the state.

"Jon Ketler Award". Received this award at his high school, Tacoma School of the Arts. This is given to one student in the senior class who most embodies the characteristics of being a community leader. This award gave him a college scholarship. Jon Ketler is the founder of the Tacoma School of the Arts.

Jake doesn't spend all his time buried in books; he can often be found working at Joesepi's Ristorante. This fall he plans to attend Bard College in upstate New York. He is the son of Mike and Cindy Stortini.

Congratulations to Jake on his accomplishments and leadership.

In Memoriam

GINGER GILCHRIST

Our sympathy goes to the family of Ginger Gilchrist, who passed away suddenly June 14. A memorial service was held at Epworth LeSourd Saturday, June 27, Pastor Wes, officiating.

Ginger's three son's, Zack Burwell and Mike and JB Gilchrist survive her, in addition to members of her extended family.

Ginger is remembered for her excellent service as coordinator of the ELUMC tutoring program until it was discontinued a few years ago. She was also chair of the "Bicycle Rodeo" held in our parking lot

Epworth LeSourd United Methodist Church
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elpastor@blarg.net (Pastor Wes)
scubagirl34@comcast.net (Stacey Moore)
- **Web Page Address:**
<http://www.EpworthLeSourd.org>

ELUMC INFORMATION

- **Staff:**
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Organist: Chris Kollar
Prayer Coordinator: Stacey Moore
- **Telephone Numbers**
Pastor Wes Cell phone (253) 677-0503
Office (253) 627-0700
Fax (call first) (253) 627-0795

- **If there is an emergency or business that cannot wait, you may call Pastor Wes at his home (253) 752-0504.**
- **Sunday Worship Time:**
8:00 AM - Early Eucharist
9:30 AM - Sunday Class for adults
11:00 AM - Worship Service
12:15 PM - Refreshments
- **Call the church office to be removed or added to this mailing, or to make changes in address.**
- **Location:**
One half mile west of Sprague Avenue
on South 8th & Anderson Street

News of the People of EL is published monthly. The deadline for newsletter articles is the 20th of the month. Articles and information for the newsletter should be sent directly to the newsletter editor, Gretchen Engle. Newsletter copy can be emailed to gesews@wamail.net. You can call in information to Gretchen at 253-565-0506.